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certain inconveniences in the use of a card catalogue by specialists who, for the most part, desire to consult only the books belonging to their own department, but the accuracy of the alphabetical arrangement and the certainty of finding the entry in its proper place with an indication of the position of the book in the library, more than counterbalance the disadvantages.

Two hundred and thirty-four volumes have been bound during the year. They were mostly special works received in numbers and some I. V. Williamson journals. Hundreds of volumes of periodicals yet remain to be bound. An effort is being made to lessen the inconvenience of consulting these by glueing the numbers of each volume firmly together, but this cannot be considered more than a temporary expedient and it is earnestly hoped that means may be soon provided for their permanent arrangement.

An interesting portrait in oil of Thomas Say, formerly one of the series belonging to Peale's Museum, has been received from Mrs. Joseph E. Mitchell.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDW. J. NOLAN.

*Librarian.*

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#### REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

The Curators present the following statement of the Curator-in-Charge as their report for the year 1887 :—

The Curator-in-Charge respectfully reports that the collections of the Academy are, generally speaking, in good condition, and that there has been but insignificant loss to the Museum through either carelessness or unintentional neglect. The various departments of the institution have been more or less dependent for their development upon the volunteer labors of specialists in their several sections, and for the valuable assistance thus rendered the Curator-in-Charge desires to express his grateful acknowledgements. The thanks of the Academy are especially due to Mr. George W. Tryon, Jr., Conservator of the Conchological Section, to Mr. J. H. Redfield, Conservator of the Herbarium, and to Mr. Jacob Binder, Conservator of the collection of minerals bequeathed to the Academy by the late Mr. Wm. S. Vaux, who have severally devoted much time and labor to the interests of the collections under their charge. To the

Entomological Section, likewise, acknowledgement is due for work done in connection with the caring for the collection of insects.

In the departments other than those here specified the work has been done under the immediate superintendence of the Curator-in-Charge and his assistant, Mr. J. E. Ives, whose services were secured in the early part of the year. As in previous years, the entire collection of alcoholics has been carefully overhauled, and specimens no longer serviceable—of which there were but few in number—removed from the bottles.

Much the greater part of the Curator's attention has been given to the collections of the main floor, which have been largely rearranged to the end of rendering them more accessible and of securing room for further collections. The large centre cases devoted to osteology have been turned lengthwise with the building, and a number removed to other parts of the hall, thereby necessitating an almost complete rearrangement of the collections contained therein. This has been accomplished with a nearer approach to system than has been possible heretofore. The bird and reptile skeletons have been removed to their respective departments on the first and second galleries, while the mammalian skeletons retain their former positions along the south wall. The greater number of these last have been carefully compared and redetermined, and the errors of previous determinations corrected and eliminated; it is believed that, with a few exceptions, concerning which there is no record, all the forms are now authoritatively determined, and arranged in accordance with the most approved system of classification. The nomenclature of Prof. Flower, Director of the British Museum, has been largely followed.

One of the most important pieces of work of the year has been the preparation of a complete catalogue of mammalian osteology, for which the Academy is principally indebted to Mr. Ives, the assistant to the Curator-in-Charge. The number of specimens therein recorded is 925, divided as follows among the several orders:—

Primates, . . . . .	109	Rodentia, . . . . .	191
Carnivora, . . . . .	297	Edentata, . . . . .	13
Ungulata and Proboscidea, . . . . .	205	Insectivora, . . . . .	17
Cheiroptera, . . . . .	2	Didelphya, . . . . .	19
Cetacea, . . . . .	62	Monotremata, . . . . .	1
Sirenia, . . . . .	9		

It will thus be seen that while some of the orders are largely represented, others are very deficient, and require much in the way of addi-

tion before they can be considered to be in any way sufficient. The Academy has received much assistance toward filling gaps from the Zoological Society of this city, which has on several occasions donated some of the rarer animals which, through death, were no longer serviceable in the Zoological Gardens. Among these may be enumerated a hippopotamus, kangaroo, wombat, echidna, etc. It is hoped that with more intimate relations between the two institutions further advantages of this kind may be acquired. It is a singular fact in connection with the development of an institution like the Academy, that while its collections frequently embrace numbers of specimens that are considered rare, and not ordinarily obtainable, other specimens, much more common, are largely or wholly wanting. Thus, in the case of our own institution, while there is what might be termed a superabundance of the skulls of tigers, bears and wolves, there is not a single complete skeleton of the ordinary cow or ox, sheep or goat; and it was only during the course of the present year that the Academy obtained, through purchase (\$100), the skeleton of the American bison. The disarticulated parts of a second individual were received at about the same time from the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, through the good offices of the late Prof. Spencer F. Baird. It is especially desirable that the commoner animals should have a representation in the museum, and it is earnestly to be wished that the museum fund may be so far increased as to permit of purchases in this direction.

In the department of Ornithology, the Academy has profited through the services of a special taxidermist, Mr. I. S. Reiff, who has, with a fair amount of care, examined the greater number of the 30,000 birds in the collection, applying arsenical poisoning and insect-powder where necessary, and readjusting the plumage of partially mutilated specimens. The total number of birds marked out as no longer serviceable for museum purposes is some 12 or 13, a very insignificant number when the extent of the collection is taken into account, and when it is remembered that this represents a destruction, not only for a single year, but for several years past. The immunity from insect depredations is not a little remarkable, seeing how imperfect the ornithological cases appear to be in comparison with those which more modern methods have succeeded in producing. An application of pure naphthaline in cores will be attempted this year as a further preventive of destruction. The following list indicates the species of birds which have been removed

from the cases as above stated: *Treron aromatica* (Java), *Treron aromatica* (*Ambunensis*, Java), *Chasmarhynchus variegatus* (Brazil), *Pitta cærulea* (Java), *Cassicus hæmorrhous* (S. Amer.), *Alcopus picoides* (East Indies), *Turdus* sp.? (New Jersey), *Thryothrus lusciniæ*, *Icterus Girardii* (Guatemala), undet. (East Indies), and *Spermestes Poensis* (Fernando Po).

The Ornithological department has received valuable and extensive accessions during the year, the more important being a collection of skins from the collection of Dr. H. B. Butcher, presented in the name of J. Dickinson Sergeant, and a like collection presented by Dr. W. L. Abbott of this city. The latter, consisting principally of birds of the United States, the West India Islands, and South and Central America, is estimated to number between two and three thousand skins, mostly in a very good state of preservation. These, for want of space-room, have not yet been definitely located, and it is imperative that some immediate provision be made for their safe-keeping.

To the departments of Geology, Mineralogy and Paleontology there have been a number of additions, in the main of no very great importance, except in so far as pertains to the specimens purchased by the Wm. S. Vaux fund. These are referred to in the report of the special conservator, herewith appended. The extensive collections of Florida fossils and rocks, which were obtained in the early part of last year, and which, for want of case room, had been, during study, temporarily deposited in the room properly belonging to Archaeology and Ethnology, are now in a condition to be placed in their proper position, a number (10) of new cases having recently been added to the main floor. By their addition the collection of tertiary invertebrate fossils of the Academy becomes by far the most important of any in the country, and falls probably but little below that of any in the world. Valuable accessions to the paleontological collections are an almost complete skull, leg bones, ribs, etc., of a Mastodon, found near Pemberton, N. J., which were generously donated to the institution by J. Coleman Saltar, of Pemberton, and Emlen McConnell, of Philadelphia, two young students of geology who first called attention to the interesting find. This is the most perfect specimen of the animal that has been found in the State during a period of some forty years.

There have been but few additions to the department of Archaeology, and attention is called to the report of the Professor of

Ethnology and Archæology, who deplores that for want of room he should be compelled to decline donations to this section of his department. The condition of overcrowding is, unfortunately, only too true for almost all the other departments, and the necessity for an extension to the present building becomes more pressing every day. Unless assistance is rendered in this direction the collections of the Academy, which are of their kind probably still the most extensive and important in the country, must cease to grow. An appeal to the Legislature of the State, made in the early part of the year, for aid in constructing an annex in which to exhibit the natural history resources of the State of Pennsylvania and the extensive collection of the State Geological Survey—deposited in the cellar of the Academy—was favorably reported upon in Committee, but failed of its purpose by reason of a design to construct a Survey Museum in the State Capital. The encouragement and endorsement which the Academy's petition met from many of the most influential citizens of Pennsylvania—Congressional representatives, merchants, manufacturers, and those most interested in the development of the natural history resources of the State—lead to the hope that at no very distant day that assistance may be obtained which has so long been needed. In the meantime it is earnestly to be hoped that the patriotic instincts of the citizens of Philadelphia will generously assert themselves, and not allow that institution to go in want which has cast so much lustre, not only upon the science of the city, but upon the science of the whole country.

In its educational workings the Academy is doing much good. The museum has been thrown open free to the classes of all institutions of learning, and the collections are largely made use of by schools both in and out of the city. The attendance at the class lectures, as well as participation in the field-excursions in connection with these, is also considerable, and shows that the facilities for study and work afforded by the Academy are largely appreciated. The course of popular evening lectures which, on the recommendation of the professors, and with the approval of the Council, was inaugurated in the spring of last year, has proved successful beyond expectation, and has led to the preparation of a more extended course, now in process of execution. Unfortunately, the hall of the Academy is not well suited to the delivery of lectures to large audiences, and hence no absolute satisfaction can be given to a large proportion of the listeners. But the character of the attendance speaks well for the interest in the work.

In connection with the work of facilitating study in the several departments of natural history, the Curator-in-Charge desires to call attention to a synoptic collection of minerals, rocks, and fossils, which has been arranged on the main floor as a practical key or guide to geological inquiry and to the various text-books that have been prepared upon the subject. The arrangement of the collection, which is contained in ten table-cases, is approximately as follows: rock-forming minerals, accessory minerals in rocks, ores, rocks proper, rock-structures, distinctive groups of fossils, and the genera of recent shells. It is thought that through a collection of this kind much valuable assistance can be given to the student, to whom the large general collections of the Academy can be of but little service.

Specimens for study have during the year been loaned to Profs. Scott and Osborn, of Princeton, N. J., Prof. R. P. Whitfield, of New York, and Prof. O. C. Marsh, of New Haven.

In conclusion, the Curator-in-Charge desires to call attention to three pressing wants of the Academy: 1. The absolute need of an extension to the present building, wherein to store the rapidly increasing collections, and to accommodate the material already in possession that can no longer find proper place for exhibition. 2. An amphitheatre or lecture-hall suitable for large audiences; and 3. A museum fund, wherewith to purchase such needed specimens for the Museum as do not come in the regular way of donation. It is also earnestly recommended that some provision be made toward permitting access to the Museum on Sundays. It cannot be denied that a large part of the population of our city is debarred from the advantages offered by the Academy by reason of the institution being closed on the only day which is free to the artisan, merchant or mechanic. Complaint in this regard is frequently made, and it is much to be wished that the Academy may at an early day meet the generous demand that is made upon it. The additional expense that would be entailed upon the institution through such opening, while beyond the resources available at present, must necessarily be slight, and it is but fair to assume that such assistance might be obtained as will permit of the project being carried into execution.

Very respectfully,

ANGELO HEILPRIN,

*Curator-in-Charge.*

JOSEPH LEIDY,

*Ch'n Curators.*